

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-13 (canceled)

14. (original) A method of forming a sports ball cover comprising the steps of:
(a) inflating a bladder to a predetermined circumference;
(b) adhering a reinforcing thread about an outer surface of the inflated bladder, thereby to form a web layer on the outer surface; and
(c) applying a resilient layer to the web layer to form a carcass.

15. (original) The method of claim 14, for forming a sports ball comprising the further steps of:
(d) inserting the carcass into a ball cover having an opening to receive the carcass; and
(e) closing the opening in the ball cover to form a finished sports ball.

16. (original) The method of claim 14 wherein the inflating step comprises inflating the bladder to a circumference of about 67.5 to 68.0 cms.

17. (original) The method of claim 15 further comprising deflating the carcass between steps (c) and (d).

18. (original) The method of claim 14 further comprising adhering the resilient layer to the web layer.

19. (original) The method of claim 15 further comprising, between steps (c) and (d), curing the carcass in a heated mold.

20. (original) The method of claim 14 wherein the resilient layer comprises a material selected from the group consisting of elastomers, natural rubber, and foams.

21. (original) The method of claim 14 further comprising bonding the bladder, web layer and resilient layer securely together.

22. (original) The method of claim 14 further comprising providing the ball cover by cutting a ball cover material into a predetermined number of panels in predetermined shape and stitching the panels together edge-to-edge, leaving an opening for insertion of the carcass.

23. (original) The method of claim 22 wherein the stitching is performed by machine.

24. (original) The method of claim 22 wherein the ball cover is stitched together inside out, and the method further comprises turning the ball cover right side out prior to inserting the carcass.

25. (original) The method of claim 20 wherein the material is selected from the group consisting of rubber, foamed rubber and EVA (ethylene vinyl acetate) foam.

26. (original) The method of claim 14 wherein the ball cover includes a lining layer.

27. (original) The method of claim 14 wherein the thread comprises a material selected from the group consisting of nylon, polyester and cotton.